PREVENTING GROUNDWATER POLLUTION: AUTOMOBILE AND OTHER SALVAGE YARDS

PREVENTING GROUNDWATER POLLUTION IS EVERYONE'S JOB!

Even if our drinking water comes from rivers, lakes, or reservoirs, we need to be mindful of the things we do that may pollute groundwater. That is because the groundwater beneath us may travel great distances to eventually feed springs or wells being used for someone's water supply.

THE GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PLAN REGULATION HELPS US PREVENT GROUNDWATER POLLUTION

Once polluted, groundwater is very difficult and expensive to clean up. It is always best to **prevent** groundwater pollution in the first place. That is the purpose of 401 KAR 5:037, the Groundwater Protection Plan Regulation. Section 2 of this regulation lists the activities that require a Groundwater Protection Plan (GPP). Should any of those activities occur at your site, you must develop a GPP.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREVENT GROUNDWATER POLLUTION?

This fact sheet provides some best management practices that may be implemented to prevent potential groundwater pollution from activities that commonly occur at salvage yards. The most appropriate methods for preventing pollution will depend on site-specific conditions. The owner/operator is in the best position for identifying the most appropriate pollution prevention methods to implement at his facility. Keep in mind that this fact sheet does not include all the pollution prevention methods available.

Best Management Practices for Salvage Yards:

- Remove and collect all fluids, refrigerants, and oil filters upon receipt;
- Dedicate a single area of the salvage yard to vehicle disassembly and fluids removal. This area must have a bermed, impervious floor and be under cover. Should the area be serviced by a drain, the drain must lead to a closed-loop collection/recovery system or a wastewater treatment plant permitted by the Kentucky Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (KPDES). Under **no** circumstances should any hazardous fluids such as antifreeze, oils, solvents, or hydraulic fluids be allowed to enter a septic system;
- Keep the disassembly area clear of stacked vehicles or parts so that disassembly is always conducted in the dedicated area;
- Have the appropriate equipment available and in good working order to collect fluids and refrigerants.

- All hazardous materials should be stored in sealed, leak-proof containers. When not in use containers should be closed;

- Conduct all vehicle crushing operations in a bermed, impervious area. If the area is serviced by a drain, the drain must be connected to a closed-loop collection/recovery system, or a wastewater treatment system permitted by the Kentucky Pollutant Elimination Discharge System (KPDES). Under **no** circumstances should any hazardous fluids be allowed to enter a drain leading to a septic system;

- Store all engines and transmissions that have been drained of fluids under cover and over an impervious floor having no cracks. Use drip pans to catch any residual fluids;

- Store batteries under cover and have them hauled away once enough are accumulated for disposal;

- Supervise all customers allowed to remove parts in the yard to ensure that they use drip pans while removing parts;

- Collect all stormwater runoff from the yard into an oil-water separator system prior to discharging to the storm sewer or groundwater. Maintain and clean out the system on a regular basis;

- Reuse to the greatest extent possible, all hazardous materials that would otherwise require disposal such as gasoline and antifreeze;

- Recycle to the greatest extent practical, all hazardous and non-hazardous materials that cannot be reused on site (ex. oil, used tires);

- Spill cleanup and a containment kit must be available in locations where leaks of potential pollutants could reach the ground or groundwater;

- Drums containing potential pollutants should be stored in a designated, curbed location where they will not be tipped over accidentally, or punctured, and are protected from the weather and vandalism;

- Unless inside a building with an impervious floor, Above Ground Storage Tanks (AST's) holding 55 gallons or more must have secondary containment. Poured concrete, metal, or compacted clay with a liner compatible with the material in the AST may be used in the construction of the floor and berm of the containment. Exposed gravel, dirt, or clay surfaces without a liner are not acceptable. Petroleum products such as gasoline, diesel fuel, or recycled oil will seep through them;

- Underground Storage Tanks (UST's), especially old tanks, pose a risk to groundwater. Secondary containment (such as double-walled tanks) is required. Periodic tank testing is also protective of groundwater. Monitoring wells may be required in some cases.

- In Kentucky UST's are regulated by 401 KAR 42. These regulations contain elements that are protective of groundwater and may be incorporated by reference into your GPP;

- Floor drains that are connected to a septic system or other onsite sewage disposal system such as a wetland or sewage lagoon, should be used to dispose of sanitary (bathroom, kitchen) wastewater **only**. If hazardous fluids or washwater containing any hazardous

fluids are currently being disposed through an onsite sewage disposal system, the Groundwater Branch recommends that the activity be stopped **and the drain plugged immediately**.